

Message

From: Strauss, Linda [Strauss.Linda@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/17/2019 7:05:50 PM
To: Bertrand, Charlotte [Bertrand.Charlotte@epa.gov]; Beck, Nancy [Beck.Nancy@epa.gov]; Baptist, Erik [Baptist.Erik@epa.gov]; Hanley, Mary [Hanley.Mary@epa.gov]; Dunton, Cheryl [Dunton.Cheryl@epa.gov]; Altieri, Sonia [Altieri.Sonia@epa.gov]; Tyler, Tom [Tyler.Tom@epa.gov]
Subject: due in 30 minutes - RE: due today - OPA ping - FW: Detroit Free Press

Importance: High

This language is exactly consistent with language Mary sent around. OK to send. Reporter is pinging OPA and OPA is pinging me.

From: Strauss, Linda
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2019 1:19 PM
To: Bertrand, Charlotte <Bertrand.Charlotte@epa.gov>; Bertrand, Charlotte <Bertrand.Charlotte@epa.gov>; Baptist, Erik <baptist.erik@epa.gov>; Hanley, Mary <Hanley.Mary@epa.gov>; Dunton, Cheryl <Dunton.Cheryl@epa.gov>; Altieri, Sonia <Altieri.Sonia@epa.gov>; Tyler, Tom <Tyler.Tom@epa.gov>
Subject: due today - OPA ping - FW: Detroit Free Press

Charlotte, I think Mary was working with you on this. Here is what we have. I do not love the answer to #2 but I understand this is what was used for SEPW prep. Too bad PFOS wasn't included on the 40 prioritized. I added the red. Please advise. Thanks.

Question 1: The EPA and PFAS compound manufacturer 3M worked out a voluntary phaseout of PFOS in 2000, which I think was completed by the company by 2003. See here: https://archive.epa.gov/epapages/newsroom_archive/newsreleases/33aa946e6cb11f35852568e1005246b4.html. Why were not PFOA, and other commonly distributed PFAS compounds, not included in that phaseout at the time?

Response 1:

The 2000 program included 3M, the only manufacturer of PFOS and therefore did not involve other manufacturers. The 2010/2015 stewardship program was a broader effort that included the eight major leading companies in the per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) industry to eliminate PFOA, and precursors that break down into PFOA, from all products and emissions by 2015. Read more here: <https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/fact-sheet-20102015-pfoa-stewardship-program>

Question 2: None of these PFAS compounds have ever been outright banned from use by the U.S. EPA, despite having a great deal of evidence of their persistence in the environment and the potential for human health harms by no later than the late 1990s. Why were the products never outright banned by EPA?

Response 2:

- Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large and diverse family of chemicals. EPA recently released a PFAS Action Plan, which outlines the agency's approach to Reducing Exposures, Understanding PFAS Toxicity, Identifying PFAS and Addressing PFAS Exposures and Research, Development and Tech Asst. Through this Plan, EPA is leading the national effort to understand PFAS and reduce PFAS risks to the public. A number of the actions included in the PFAS Action Plan will generate data and information will be highly useful to OPPT for prioritizing and conducting risk evaluations under TSCA in the future.
- For existing chemicals that are already in commerce, including those in use before TSCA was originally enacted in 1976, amended TSCA requires a 9-12 month prioritization process. For those chemicals designated as "high-priority" EPA must immediately commence risk evaluation and conclude within 3-3.5 years and take risk

management action within 2-4 years if EPA's risk evaluation results in a finding of unreasonable risk to human health or the environment.

- EPA reviews new chemicals before they can be allowed to commercialize and takes a range of actions to address potential concerns including ban, limitations, and additional testing on the chemical.

From: Matheny, Keith <kmatheny@freepress.com>

Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 4:09 PM

To: Press <Press@epa.gov>

Subject: Detroit Free Press

Hello,

I'm working on a package of stories related to PFAS contamination in Michigan and elsewhere. I have a couple of EPA-related questions that I'm hoping someone can answer for my story.

1. The EPA and PFAS compound manufacturer 3M worked out a voluntary phaseout of PFOS in 2000, which I think was completed by the company by 2003. See here:

https://archive.epa.gov/epapages/newsroom_archive/newsreleases/33aa946e6cb11f35852568e1005246b4.html

Why were not PFOA, and other commonly distributed PFAS compounds, not included in that phaseout at the time?

2. EPA later announced the 2010/2015 PFOA Stewardship Program, calling on manufacturers to eliminate the compound, and precursors that break down into PFOA, from all products by 2015, and to reduce emissions containing PFOA by 95% from a 2000 baseline, by 2010.

See here:

None of these PFAS compounds have ever been outright banned from use by the U.S. EPA, despite having a great deal of evidence of their persistence in the environment and the potential for human health harms by no later than the late 1990s.

- A. **Why were the products never outright banned by EPA?**
- B. **Why, in 2019, is there still no enforceable water or soil standard for PFOS and PFOA contamination?**
- C. **What work, if any, was done toward establishing an enforceable limit for PFOS and PFOA in drinking water (or surface water, or soil) from the time EPA became more aware of the potential harm to the environment and human health, in the late 1990s or earlier, and today?**

My deadline on this story is Wednesday, April 17, and my contact information is below. Thank you very much.

Keith Matheny

Reporter

<image001.png>

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